



## NEWS RELEASE

**Use: Immediate**

**Date: 21/3/07**

### **LAND MANAGEMENT IN EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN REGIONS**

The challenges facing small farmers in marginal areas across Europe are often remarkably similar but solutions to them differ widely. A talk in Plockton next Wednesday looks at initiatives being put in place in 10 mountainous regions across Europe, including Skye & Lochalsh, to protect traditional land management and ensure the viability of rural communities.

The talk presents findings of a European study project carried out by the Scottish Crofting Foundation on behalf of the Highland Council. The study looked at regions in Norway, Italy, Spain and Portugal as well as the Highlands and found many different options for managing the landscape and environment in mountain areas; from grazing incentive schemes in the west of Norway to the encouragement of horticulture and agri-tourism in the mountains of Northern Italy. In the Highlands, the study contrasted the Scotland-wide Land Management Scheme with more local approaches to management, particularly that led by the National Trust for Scotland in the townships of Drumbuie, Durinish and Plockton.

The study was part of a wider European study looking also at the development of niche products from mountain areas and the delivery of public services to a dispersed rural population.

All are welcome to attend the meeting which is at 7.30pm in Duncraig Castle, Plockton.

END

Ends    Contact:    Becky Shaw, SCF Land Use Programme    Tel.    01408 633131  
Manager

